

Appendix AL

Pre-Filing Public Information Session Transcripts: Londonderry, NH (Rockingham County), May 6, 2015; Hudson, NH (Hillsborough County), May 7, 2015



Londonderry, NH (Rockingham County), May 6, 2015



1 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

3 **May 6, 2015** - 7:00 p.m.

4 Matthew Thornton Elementary School

5 275 Mammoth Road

6 Londonderry, New Hampshire

7 **IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-05**
8 **PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF**
9 **NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a**
10 **EVERSOURCE ENERGY and NEW ENGLAND**
11 **POWER COMPANY d/b/a NATIONAL GRID:**
12 **Public Information Session held**
13 **pursuant to RSA 162-H:10 regarding**
14 **the Joint Application for a**
15 **Certificate of Site and Facility**
16 **for the Construction of a New**
17 **345-kV Transmission Line in**
18 **Southern New Hampshire.**
19 ***(Presentation by Eversource Energy***
20 ***and National Grid provided off the***
21 ***record, and followed by a***
22 ***Question-and-Answer Session and***
23 ***comments received from the public***
24 ***on the record)***

17 **PRESIDING:** Hon. Kathleen McGuire (Retired)
18 (Presiding as the Moderator)

23 COURT REPORTER: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

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NOTED AS PRESENT:

Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
(McLane Graf Raulerson & Middleton)

Also noted as present for the Eversource Energy/National Grid Project Team who provided the presentation and answers to questions:

Jim Jiottis
(Manager of Transmission Engineering, Eversource Energy)

Bryan Hudock
(Project Manager, National Grid)

Also answering questions:
Garrett Luszczki (Eversource)

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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS BY:

Lynwood Gilcreast	10, 18
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P R O C E E D I N G

1
2 THE MODERATOR: Good evening. My name
3 is Kathleen McGuire. I'm a retired New Hampshire Superior
4 Court judge. I was on the bench for about 25 years before
5 I fully retired. My function here tonight is to moderate
6 this public information session about the Merrimack Valley
7 Reliability Project.

8 Should we wait for more people to come
9 around?

10 MS. GRECKI: And, if we need more
11 chairs, let me know, and we can grab some more chairs.

12 THE MODERATOR: Is everybody around,
13 Michelle?

14 MS. GRECKI: Some chairs here, some
15 chairs there. Don't be shy.

16 THE MODERATOR: The Merrimack Valley
17 Reliability Project is a 24.6-mile 345 kilovolt electric
18 overhead transmission line that would extend from
19 Londonderry to Tewksbury, Mass., using an existing power
20 line corridor. Eighteen miles of the line would be in New
21 Hampshire and six and a half miles in Massachusetts. The
22 Project is being proposed by Public Service of New
23 Hampshire, doing business as Eversource Energy, and
24 National Grid. I want to thank you all very much for

1 coming out tonight to participate in this event.

2 Tonight's public information session is
3 the first step in an administrative process required by
4 statute, RSA Chapter 162-H. Before the Merrimack Valley
5 Reliability Project, or any new energy project can be
6 built, the company proposing the project must receive a
7 Certificate of Site and Facility from the New Hampshire
8 Site Evaluation Committee, more usually referred to as the
9 "SEC". The SEC is an entity formed by the Legislature for
10 the purpose of reviewing and authorizing proposed energy
11 sites and facilities.

12 Chapter -- RSA Chapter 162-H was
13 recently amended to require that at least 30 days before
14 submitting an application to the Site Evaluation
15 Committee, the utility seeking approval must hold a public
16 information session in each county in which a project is
17 to be built. The Merrimack Valley Reliability Project is
18 proposed for Rockingham and Hillsborough Counties.

19 Tonight's meeting is that
20 pre-application information session in Rockingham County.
21 Tomorrow night a similar session will be held in Hudson
22 for Hillsborough County. The purpose of these meetings is
23 to provide information to the public about the proposed
24 Project, and offer the public the opportunity to comment

1 on the proposal.

2 Although the statute does not provide
3 for pre-application information sessions to include
4 question-and-answer periods, the Companies have carved out
5 a 30-minute section to respond to questions about the
6 Project. Hopefully, you were able to meet with the many
7 Project engineers and other experts responsible for the
8 planning and administration of this Project who were here
9 in the open house just prior to this session.

10 So, the procedure that we're going to
11 follow tonight is this: After I've completed my
12 introduction, Eversource and National Grid will present a
13 short video that gives an overview of the Project,
14 followed by a brief presentation by representatives of the
15 companies. Members of the Project Team will then answer
16 questions for about 30 minutes. Please keep your
17 questions concise, so that we can get to as many questions
18 as possible. After that, we will begin taking public
19 comments as required by RSA H:10 [162-H:10?].

20 You may comment on the Project either
21 orally by signing up to speak at the kiosk, or writing on
22 cards, also provided at the kiosk. If you have not
23 already signed up to speak, you may do so at any time by
24 seeing Donna, who's in the black-and-white striped skirt,

1 and she'll add you to the list. You will be called on to
2 comment and ask questions in the order that you sign up.

3 The statute requires that comments made
4 tonight about the Project be recorded, which is why a
5 stenographer, Steve Patnaude, is here taking down what is
6 said. A transcript of tonight's proceeding will be made
7 and included in Eversource's and National Grid's
8 Application to the Site Evaluation Committee. Your
9 written comments will also be included with the
10 Application.

11 Because tonight's meeting is being
12 recorded, it is very important that it be conducted in an
13 orderly manner. Only one person may speak at a time, and
14 please speak slowly, so that Mr. Patnaude can accurately
15 record your comments. Please also be sure to direct your
16 comments to me, and not to each other.

17 To ensure that everyone who has an
18 opportunity to -- who cares to speak has that opportunity,
19 I ask that you keep your comments and questions to three
20 minutes. If you need more time to finish your comments,
21 you will be given a second opportunity after everyone else
22 has had an opportunity to speak.

23 Eversource and National Grid are
24 anticipating filing the Application for the Merrimack

1 Valley Reliability Project in late June. If you -- the
2 Application, including all public comments and the
3 transcript that I've described, will be available online
4 at the SEC website, and hard copies will be delivered to
5 each town affected by the Project.

6 As I said previously, this is the
7 beginning of a lengthy administrative process. The
8 statute requires at least two more sets of public
9 information sessions. Once Eversource and National Grid
10 file their Application, the SEC has 60 days to determine
11 whether to accept it. Within 45 days after the
12 Application is accepted, a second set of public
13 information sessions will be held. They will be much the
14 same as this one, except that the moderator will either be
15 the Presiding Officer of the Site Evaluation Committee or
16 his designee. The SEC may also hold additional
17 information sessions as it deems reasonable to inform the
18 public.

19 The third set of public information
20 sessions occurs within 90 days after the Site Evaluation
21 Committee accepts the Application. The SEC and other
22 state agencies will hold hearings about the Application
23 and any other permits that the Project is seeking to
24 acquire. In the past, these hearings involved the

1 applicant presenting information about the proposed
2 project, the SEC and state agencies asking the applicant
3 questions about the project, and the public making
4 comments, and the SEC moderating a question-and-answer
5 period about the project.

6 The last part of the administrative
7 project [process?] occurs when the SEC holds a public
8 adjudicatory hearing -- adjudicative hearing, at which it
9 considers evidence and decides whether or not to issue a
10 certificate authorizing Eversource and National Grid to
11 proceed with the proposed Project. These hearings
12 typically occur eight months or more after an application
13 is accepted.

14 Again, thank you for participating in
15 this initial step of the SEC siting process. The video
16 presenting the information about the Project will now be
17 shown, after which members of the Project Team will begin
18 to answer questions for about 30 minutes before we take
19 your comments about the Project.

20 *(Whereupon a video presentation was*
21 *shown to the members of the public.)*

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay. So, Bryan Hudock
23 and Jim Jiottis, Bryan is Project Manager for National
24 Grid and Jim is the Manager of Transmission Engineering

1 for Eversource, will now make a brief presentation, and
2 then answer your questions.

3 *(Whereupon an off-the-record PowerPoint*
4 *presentation was made to the members of*
5 *the public.)*

6 THE MODERATOR: Are there any questions
7 that have been written at this point?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No one signed up.

9 THE MODERATOR: All right. Then, we'll
10 forgo that formality. Does anybody here have a question
11 they'd like to ask the experts here? Yes, sir. Would
12 you --

13 MR. GILCREAST: Yes.

14 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Would you come to
15 the microphone.

16 MR. GILCREAST: Sure.

17 THE MODERATOR: And, please say your
18 name and your town.

19 MR. GILCREAST: Yes. Good evening. My
20 name is Lynwood Gilcreast. I live in Hudson, New
21 Hampshire.

22 THE MODERATOR: Sir, please --

23 MR. GILCREAST: I thought I would get a
24 head's up on this, --

1 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

2 MR. GILCREAST: -- before I see you all
3 tomorrow.

4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Could you just
5 spell your last name, too.

6 MR. GILCREAST: Yes.

7 THE MODERATOR: I forgot to give you
8 that instruction.

9 MR. GILCREAST: Yes. G-i-l-c-r-e-a-s-t,
10 Gilcreast.

11 THE MODERATOR: Yes, sir.

12 MR. GILCREAST: So, you said that you
13 separate yourself from the pipeline folks, Kinder Morgan?

14 MR. JIOTTIS: Different --
15 (Court reporter interruption.)

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

17 MR. JIOTTIS: My apologies.

18 THE MODERATOR: And, wait for him to
19 finish the question before you answer.

20 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure.

21 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Go ahead.

22 MR. GILCREAST: Okay. So, you did say
23 that you really have separated yourselves from the gas
24 line folks. But would you allow that pipeline to be

1 buried on Eversource rights-of-way?

2 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay. That's a good
3 question, and it's a common question we're hearing a lot
4 of. A couple things with that first. First off, we don't
5 own most of the property that our power lines go over.
6 They're typically easements.

7 MR. GILCREAST: Right.

8 MR. JIOTTIS: So, in that case, it
9 really -- the underlying landowner that the pipeline will
10 be dealing with to get the rights to put the pipeline in.
11 Also, as far as allowing it in there, we do have pipelines
12 in our rights-of-ways. When pipelines are put in there,
13 though, we're very particular about how it's done. I
14 mean, we're going to be on it to make sure it's done
15 safely, it's done correctly. There's a lot of standards
16 they've got to follow to put it in there.

17 So, I guess we do allow it, we do have
18 to work around it, but we prefer that it not be in there.

19 MR. GILCREAST: So, is there a
20 difference between a "right-of-way" and an "easement"? In
21 other words, if you did allow it on an easement, would you
22 need the property owner's permission?

23 MR. JIOTTIS: If it's an easement
24 that -- let me take a step back. We would typically

1 secure an easement from a landowner for our right-of-way,
2 okay? And, on that easement, it's a legal document with
3 the landowner saying they're "allowing us to build a power
4 line on there." And, typically, that's all it says is "a
5 power line".

6 So, if someone else were to come on and
7 do -- want to build a pipeline, for instance, they would
8 have to talk to that landowner and get another easement to
9 put a pipeline in there, because it's not part of our
10 easement for the power line.

11 MR. GILCREAST: I see. That answers
12 that. Thank you.

13 MR. JIOTTIS: Thank you.

14 MR. GILCREAST: I also had another
15 question. I need to put my glasses on now, --

16 MR. JIOTTIS: I know the feeling.

17 MR. GILCREAST: -- can't read my hen
18 scratching. I'm in a real tight spot where I am. And, if
19 you take that 185 feet off the existing centerline for the
20 existing power lines now, and back up and you should
21 clear-cut that, I'm going to have a perfect view of that.
22 So, right now, they're dual poles that you showed, I don't
23 remember exactly which one. But, in my case, single poles
24 I think might be something that would really help me

1 possibly. So, I'm hoping that someone might consider that
2 in some of these tight areas. Other people may be in
3 really close, too, and could possibly benefit from a
4 single pole. You might not have to cut back as far as
5 what I was saying.

6 And, how much electricity will New
7 Hampshire get from this exercise?

8 MR. JIOTTIS: That's -- I'm trying to
9 think of the correct way to answer. Overall, the line
10 itself has the ability to move electricity which would
11 power about 400,000 homes. On any given day, New
12 Hampshire might get some, part or all of that, on other
13 days it may get very little of that. It's really -- it's
14 about moving power from one side to the other.

15 So, for example, say something really
16 goes bad in New Hampshire. You know, we have a very
17 reliable system, but stuff happens. So, we would rely on
18 the line to get -- to provide power from Massachusetts up
19 to us. The other thing -- the converse can happen, too.
20 Something really bad happens down in Massachusetts, and
21 they need an extra slug of power. So, the line would then
22 provide power to move down there.

23 Really, it goes back and forth. It's
24 hard to say that it's just one side or the other is going

1 to get all the electricity out of it.

2 MR. GILCREAST: So, it kind of goes into
3 one big bank and then everybody takes from it, sort of?

4 MR. JIOTTIS: That's a good analogy,
5 yes.

6 MR. GILCREAST: Yes. So, with that
7 being said, do you intend to put any substations in New
8 Hampshire on this new power line?

9 MR. JIOTTIS: On the power line itself,
10 we're not going to add any new substations.

11 MR. GILCREAST: No new substations.

12 MR. JIOTTIS: But we have substations at
13 either end, which will be expanded to account for it.

14 MR. GILCREAST: Right.

15 MR. JIOTTIS: We have a substation in
16 Londonderry, and National Grid has their substation in
17 Tewksbury that will be expanded.

18 MR. GILCREAST: Okay. I'm a little
19 selfish, concerned about Hudson. But, if you've already
20 got them, well, I guess that's that. So, okay.

21 Well, and, of course, I know that
22 National Grid is going underground in Massachusetts. And,
23 it sure would be nice to go underground here, but --

24 MR. HUDOCK: Just to clarify, we'll be

1 overhead for the duration of the Project in Massachusetts
2 and New Hampshire for this Project. So, we're not going
3 underground for this.

4 MR. GILCREAST: Just not doing it,
5 because, basically, you already have rights-of-way or
6 easements?

7 MR. HUDOCK: Correct. It's a
8 combination of looking at costs and environmental impacts.

9 MR. GILCREAST: That's it. Yes. A lot
10 of these questions, these folks have been really nice,
11 I've been talking with them and they have been very
12 helpful. But I kind of wanted to talk and get some of
13 this recorded, you know?

14 So, I have others. But these folks have
15 been pretty good, talking about different trees that could
16 be planted to help and what have you. So, I'll wrap that
17 up for myself and say thank you.

18 THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much,
19 sir.

20 MR. JIOTTIS: Thank you.

21 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else have a
22 question or comment? We might as well do them at once, I
23 think, how it's going.

24 MR. FREDA: Thomas Freda, F-r-e-d-a. I

1 was talking to one of the people at the information area
2 there, and they said that they've personally gone to --
3 representatives have personally gone to 15 abutters of the
4 Project where tree-cutting will be necessitated. I didn't
5 get a chance to ask them, so, I'll ask you guys. Are you
6 going to replace the trees, perhaps on their property, so
7 that their viewshed is somewhat protected?

8 MR. JIOTTIS: Typically, what we would
9 do -- typically, what we do is work with each landowner.
10 Sometimes it's not a question just replacing the trees,
11 it's about maybe doing something with shrubbery or
12 whatever to change the viewscape. So, I really -- not
13 going to say we're going to replant every single tree.
14 What we will do, though, is meet with each landowner and
15 see what works best for them, and we'll work around that
16 person. Whether it's shrubs, whether it's -- you know, in
17 some cases, it could even be tweaking our structure a
18 little bit, you know, right or left, in this case, up or
19 down to maybe get it out of somebody's viewshed. It's
20 really more of a case of that than just going to them and
21 replacing all the trees.

22 And, also, to that fact, we have to
23 maintain a certain clearance from our lines from the
24 trees. So, we really can't put the stuff back underneath

1 them. You know, as you can see the existing right-of-way,
2 excuse me, we keep them pretty clear-cut, because we don't
3 want trees growing up into the lines.

4 MR. FREDA: Okay. Thank you.

5 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Would
6 someone else like to ask a question or a comment?

7 MR. GILCREAST: Well, I would ask
8 another question.

9 THE MODERATOR: Well, --

10 MR. GILCREAST: If no one else is
11 raising their hand? Along those lines, --

12 THE MODERATOR: Well, you're
13 well-prepared.

14 MR. GILCREAST: Well, I guess.

15 THE MODERATOR: Would you say your name
16 again, sir, for the record.

17 MR. GILCREAST: Yes. It's Lynwood
18 Gilcreast. Along those lines of planting shrubs and what
19 have you, everyone seems to be talking about what is the
20 distance, this is a 345 kilovolt line. But there must be
21 a federal distance or some -- the dielectric constant
22 between the lines and the trees. What is that number?
23 What is that distance? Because, so far, I haven't found
24 anyone that actually knows that.

1 MR. JIOTTIS: Tell you what. Let me get
2 one of our line engineers who actually designed this to --
3 and they're the folks in the weeds for it. So, this is
4 going to be Garrett. Garrett is one of the designers for
5 this Project.

6 MR. GILCREAST: Great.

7 MR. JIOTTIS: And, he can hopefully
8 address some of your questions.

9 THE MODERATOR: Garrett, would you say
10 your last name and spell it.

11 MR. LUSZCZKI: Sure. My last name is
12 Garrett -- first name is Garrett, and last name is
13 Luszccki, L-u-s-z-c-z-k-i.

14 MR. PATNAUDE: Thank you.

15 MR. LUSZCZKI: Are you talking about
16 vertical or horizontal space?

17 MR. GILCREAST: I'm talking about
18 vertical space. I say that, because I've watched white
19 oak trees grow most of my life. I've seen them when I was
20 a kid, and now they're only that tall [indicating]. If
21 you got a 90-foot line, which I realize sags, and you look
22 at a 40-foot white oak, well, the true is, everyone in
23 this room will be dead before that becomes an issue with
24 the power line. So, I'm thinking, in some cases, I know,

1 for maintenance purposes, it's nice to just go in and
2 - swish - cut them out, clear-cut, come in and bush hog
3 every four or five years. From a cost standpoint, I'm
4 sure that's the way to go, from your point of view. But,
5 in some cases, where you really got a perfect view, for
6 me, I'm going to sit on my deck now, and see nothing. I'm
7 going to see lines and poles and, seriously, it's going to
8 be a real -- it's really tough. And, they have been nice
9 about talking about finding out what kind of trees we
10 could plant, and this and that.

11 So, I guess my point is, that there are
12 some trees that may never reach those lines. And, I guess
13 I would ask you to consider that, you know, when you do
14 come in and cut.

15 MR. LUSZCZKI: Certainly.

16 MR. GILCREAST: And, the gas folks, not
17 to keep bringing those guys up, but, jeez. Whew. They
18 just want to -- they still don't realize -- I actually
19 believe that they do not realize that a new transmission
20 line is going through. And, the way they word their
21 wording is really good. "We only need 200 feet from the
22 existing power lines." So, if someone looks out and they
23 go "oh". They don't realize, "oh, wait a minute, back up
24 another 185 feet, then take your 200 feet." "Oh, they

1 can't do that".

2 THE MODERATOR: Well, --

3 MR. GILCREAST: That's what people say.

4 THE MODERATOR: -- I'm going to --

5 MR. GILCREAST: But I don't want to
6 monopolize this.

7 THE MODERATOR: Right.

8 MR. GILCREAST: But I wanted to ask that
9 last question.

10 THE MODERATOR: We don't want to make
11 this a night about the proposed gas pipeline, because --

12 MR. GILCREAST: I know.

13 THE MODERATOR: -- this is a totally
14 different project, and not connected with that. Yes,
15 ma'am.

16 MS. BARTHELMES: Hi. My name is Barbara
17 Barthelmes, B-a-r-t-h-e-l-m-e-s. Myself and some of our
18 neighbors that are here, we live right along one of the
19 sections in Londonderry that will be greatly impacted. As
20 we drive up our street, on Jason Drive, we're going to
21 have a lovely view as you come into the cul-de-sac of
22 these big towers. One of the things that we're all very
23 concerned about, among others, is the tax implications.
24 You talk about that Eversource and National Grid or

1 whichever will be paying taxes into the Town. What
2 happens to our property tax? Will that be reduced,
3 because we have this now on our property? Is there any
4 expectation for that?

5 And, also, what is the expectations in
6 terms of property values? Again, if we wanted to sell our
7 house, right now, what we're envisioning is, if people
8 drive up the street to take a look at our houses up here,
9 they'll drive up the cul-de-sac, see those power lines,
10 they're going to turn right around and leave the
11 neighborhood.

12 So, can you comment on personal property
13 taxes, and also property values?

14 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. I'll try to. I
15 guess, first off, as far as your reduced -- reduction of
16 property taxes, I think that's really that's kind of
17 between -- it's up to the Town. I mean, they will be
18 getting additional revenue from us. How they adjust their
19 tax rates, that's -- well, I guess we're like any other
20 taxpayer, we pay it in, and the towns then do what they
21 need to do with that.

22 As far as property values, as part of
23 the construction, we do global property value studies, we
24 look at a global impact. So, we come up with items on a

1 broader scale. But, also, I'm hoping, when you talked
2 with some of the folks, that we did offer to come out and
3 talk to you specifically about your place, because your
4 situation could be different, each house is unique.

5 So, that's really the best I can comment
6 on, and I don't know if I could go out and say "oh,
7 they're all going to go up", "they're all going to go
8 down", or "stay the same". There are broad studies done.
9 They don't see a lot of changes in it. But I think it's
10 really important that you speak on an individual level
11 with someone from the Project, because there may be
12 someone unique to your house or to your specific
13 location.

14 MS. BARTHELMES: And, do you have that
15 specific contact information? Would we call the number or
16 send an e-mail? Or, how do we get in touch with these
17 folks specifically to arrange a time that perhaps we can
18 each talk with them?

19 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. You could call the
20 number. You could also speak to one of the Project
21 Managers. Suzanne could give that information right now.

22 MS. BARTHELMES: That would be great.
23 Thank you. Okay. And, also, in consideration of these
24 areas, I know some of the neighbors, there it's going to

1 be 23 feet from their house. I think we're lucky, we
2 might be 50 feet away. Woo, woo. We got a lot of land
3 left. And, other neighbors, again, we're all in a similar
4 boat. Is there any consideration for "restyling", I think
5 as the other gentleman alluded to, that the style of the
6 lines, when you're coming that close to a residential
7 area, is there any consideration for that? Because,
8 again, you try planting trees, we're going to long be dead
9 before those are big enough to cover that up.

10 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. As part of the
11 design, we can look at changing the structure type. It's
12 not going to change the spacing from the edge of the
13 right-of-way that much. There is a little bit of
14 difference with the monopole. But, and again, that's
15 something as -- to work with the individual Project
16 Managers to look at that to see if that is an option on
17 the table.

18 MS. BARTHELMES: Okay.

19 MR. JIOTTIS: That is out there. Again,
20 you know, the other thing is just also working with folks
21 about landscaping, what we can do to lessen the impact.

22 MS. BARTHELMES: And, is the landscaping
23 charges on your dime or ours?

24 MR. JIOTTIS: We would -- the Project --

1 we would work with you to replace some of the stuff. I
2 mean, obviously, I don't think we're going to pay to, you
3 know, to --

4 MS. BARTHELMES: It would be great to
5 have you come and do our lawn, I don't think that's going
6 to happen. I'm not after that. But, again, just
7 something to give us a physical barrier between us and
8 having to look at that.

9 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. Typically, the
10 project will take care, you know, reasonable costs for
11 putting some types of screening in, you know, working with
12 you to come up with something.

13 MS. BARTHELMES: Okay. Thank you.

14 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Someone else
15 like to ask a question or a comment?

16 MR. MUSE: Good evening.

17 THE MODERATOR: Good evening.

18 MR. MUSE: I'm Patrick Muse, M-u-s-e,
19 from Londonderry. I'm curious, what's the acoustic
20 impact? It sounds like a significant amount of
21 electricity. Is it going to be a buzz? Hum?

22 MR. JIOTTIS: It's -- there is a buzz
23 and hum. If you hear the line today, you know, there's
24 existing lines out there, it's going to be similar to

1 that. Noise-wise, it's going to stay about the same. I'm
2 sure, on a damp day, you'll probably hear the lines a
3 little bit more than on a dry day. But it's going to be
4 about the same as what's there today with the lines.

5 MR. MUSE: All right. Also, with this
6 shared resource/shared bank, obviously, a supply issue.
7 What's going to be the impact on kilowatt-hours? How do
8 we compare, say, here in southern New Hampshire, compared
9 to northern Mass., per kilowatt-hour? Is this going to
10 make New Hampshire more competitive to bring more business
11 to take advantage of this power or will this investment
12 incrementally push up the rates again? I think we saw a
13 significant rate increase this year. What's the
14 projection?

15 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess I'll answer it in
16 a couple ways. First off, this Project, one thing we
17 haven't really touched on is how the Project's paid for.
18 And, we talk about a \$123 million project. It's not paid
19 for by just New Hampshire. This is considered a regional
20 transmission project. So, New Hampshire pays a portion of
21 it based on its load, particularly nine percent, around
22 there. So, you know, you're not paying for the whole
23 project. And, that's, if you look on your electric bill,
24 you'll see a little line on there that says "Transmission

1 Charge". That's what that goes into.

2 The effect on the rates? Typically, any
3 time we add more to the system, we allow electricity to
4 flow more easily, it has a positive impact. You don't end
5 up with these differences in rates. You know, you don't
6 end up with a significantly higher rate in Massachusetts
7 or New Hampshire, it kind of levels things out. So, it
8 evens out.

9 The other thing, it's hard to say what
10 the effective rates are, because when folks go out and
11 they're shopping for electricity, they're buying from
12 different suppliers, you're going to see far more changes
13 in the rates because of those suppliers than what we're
14 doing. Our rate is fairly low, fairly constant, but
15 you're going to see a lot of movement in suppliers. I
16 guess a lot of people probably saw it this winter. You
17 know, depending on who you were buying from, it would go
18 up or it would go down. So, you're not going to see a
19 huge impact on your rates. And, overall, it's going to
20 act to kind of levelize rates across the region.

21 MR. MUSE: Okay. Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Any other questions and
23 comments? Yes.

24 MS. BARTHELMES: My name again is

1 Barbara Barthelmes, B-a-r-t-h-e-l-m-e-s. One other thing
2 that we are concerned about, where we are on our hill on
3 Jason Drive, we're on a ledge. So, when the construction
4 is being done, is there any blasting? And, we're
5 concerned a bit about the vibration effect coming through
6 the ground, what's going to happen to our foundation, and
7 any potential structural damage that we may occur -- that
8 may occur on our property. Wells, things like that, we
9 have septic systems. Again, just a little concerned about
10 that impact that we -- because, again, we are very close.
11 We've got a set of four houses, that we're real close, and
12 we're just wondering what's going to happen.

13 MR. JIOTTIS: There could be blasting.
14 It's a technique that's used to get a whole in the ledge.
15 But, also, with blasting, like, well, we tend to think we
16 use very quality blasters. We're going to go out, things
17 like pre-prep, we're going to go out and look and see how
18 close are you, you know, what can we do to your house.
19 Usually, we'll take a survey before blasting and a survey
20 afterwards to determine if there's any damage. So, it's
21 not something that we do just casually. I mean, it's
22 something that we would work with you folks. You would
23 know when we're going to be doing blasting.

24 MS. BARTHELMES: Yes.

1 MR. JIOTTIS: It's not something that we
2 would slip in Saturday morning and, you know, touch off a
3 few explosions and try to slip out. You know, again, we
4 want to be pretty up front and work with you. Because,
5 really, we don't want you to have any damage in your
6 house, because we don't want you to, you know, that
7 becomes your impression of our work. You know, we're not
8 like that.

9 MS. BARTHELMES: Yes. We have a quarry
10 that's not all that far. It's further away than these
11 power lines, and we can feel the reverberation of that
12 blast. So, again, this is going to be even closer, and
13 just wondering what's going to happen. Thank you.

14 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay.

15 THE MODERATOR: Any more questions
16 and/or comments? Yes, sir.

17 MR. BRESLIN: Ray Breslin, Londonderry.

18 THE MODERATOR: B-r-e-s-l-i-n?

19 MR. BRESLIN: That's it.

20 THE MODERATOR: Breslin?

21 MR. BRESLIN: Yes.

22 THE MODERATOR: Okay.

23 MR. BRESLIN: There was some mention of
24 an "alternative route". Could you tell us what the

1 alternative route was?

2 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. In this case, not
3 so much a route, as there was an actual alternative
4 project. You may have actually seen it in the newspaper.
5 There was a project that was proposed by another company
6 to build an underwater line from Seabrook down into Boston
7 itself. That was put out there. Our ISO New England,
8 they looked at the projects, and, you know, in the end, a
9 lot of it just boils down to cost and constructability,
10 and this Project was selected. I believe the project --
11 the other competing project was several hundred million
12 dollars more than this one. \$250 million, thank you,
13 Bryan, more. So, that really was the competing --
14 alternative route, the competing project for this.

15 MR. BRESLIN: Yes. But, I mean, that's
16 not a decision ISO-New England would necessarily make. I
17 mean, that's a cost to the company that's putting the line
18 in. I mean, if they're willing to do it, I mean, --

19 MR. JIOTTIS: It does become an ISO
20 cost, because what they do, is they -- that company who
21 invests that money is going to look for a return on that
22 money. They're going to want to earn on that, just like
23 anybody else does. They're going to, say, spend the
24 money, want to get a ten or twelve percent return, and

1 that's collected from us, the ratepayers.

2 MR. BRESLIN: Yes. But the cost that,
3 you know, a lot of us are concerned with is is the cost of
4 production. And, that's not what -- you're in
5 distribution, or maybe not "distribution", --

6 MR. JIOTTIS: Transmission.

7 MR. BRESLIN: Transmission. And, so,
8 you know, the cost that may be pass on to us from
9 Eversource or National Grid, maybe just a percentage of
10 that, you know, the cost of production, which I think, if
11 we're talking about, I hate to bring up the gas line, but
12 we're talking about putting in new gas-fired plants in the
13 future here, because a lot of the other plants are going
14 to be going off line, nuclear plants, coal-fired, oil,
15 whatever. So, you know, I want people to realize that the
16 cost of this is only a percentage of that.

17 MR. JIOTTIS: Correct. You're right.

18 MR. BRESLIN: And, one other thing, in
19 regards to Londonderry, we currently have 24 high-tension
20 lines running through Londonderry, and now we're talking
21 about another 345 kVA, 3-phase. There's probably going to
22 be two per phase, six lines, for a total of 30, which I
23 think kind of takes away from not only the value of
24 property, but takes away from the beauty of the town.

1 And, so, I'd like to see it underground, but that ain't
2 going to happen.

3 Anyway, those are just some of my
4 concerns. And, thank you for taking the time.

5 MR. JIOTTIS: Thank you for providing
6 the input.

7 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you,
8 sir. Yes.

9 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. Doug Thomas,
10 Londonderry. I'd like just to follow up on a previous
11 resident's question here. Because I know that Eversource
12 uses about 650 kilowatts on the average per month to --
13 whenever they estimate for what something might cost the
14 residents. So, did I hear you correctly to say that, with
15 your anticipated cost of this Project, and what might be
16 charged to the transmission portion of the bill, that you
17 don't have a -- at least an estimate of what the increase
18 on a per kilowatt basis is or might be charged to all
19 residents when they pay for this Project?

20 MR. JIOTTIS: I could get that
21 information for you. And, stop by afterwards, I can get
22 your name and provide that. We have to do some
23 calculations. What we've got to do is kind of make up a
24 rate looking into the future to apply what the Project's

1 charges are going to be to how many -- your usage and
2 everything else that's going on. Because that line that I
3 talked about you pay for on your bill, your "transmission"
4 line, that's made up of projects all across New England.
5 So, what we have to look to do is say "okay, this Project
6 is going to be in service in 2017. What other projects
7 are there, and come up with what we think that number is
8 going to be, then back figure it out. So, we can do that
9 for you. It's just not something I have on the tip of my
10 tongue.

11 MR. THOMAS: Okay. And, I realize it's
12 a relatively small cost, compared to the inconvenience
13 from some of the people that are the abutters. But it
14 would be nice to know what this will cost everybody.

15 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. I think we could
16 get that information out to folks, some idea of the impact
17 on your rate.

18 MR. THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

19 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Yes, sir.

20 MR. BATES: My name is David Bates, from
21 Windham. And, it's B-a-t-e-s. Earlier in the opening
22 comments, I thought I remembered something -- something
23 being said about "adjustments to easements". And, I'm
24 wondering if you could explain more specifically what you

1 mean by "adjusting easements" and what locations that
2 would be in?

3 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess, for specific
4 locations, I'd probably look to either Bryan or Suzanne to
5 talk about that. But "adjustments" might be things like,
6 you know, getting a new access point in. So, instead
7 of -- you might have a trail that goes up the right-of-way
8 that goes through a wetland, we might ask for some kind of
9 adjustment through someone else's property so we wouldn't
10 have to drive by there. We might -- a lot of it has to do
11 with just access to it.

12 But I'll let Bryan and Suzanne give some
13 specifics.

14 MR. HUDOCK: Sure. So, I can say, for
15 National Grid, there's only one area in Hudson where we're
16 having some conversations with a landowner for a very
17 small amount of property that's next to the existing
18 easement, just to be able to facilitate a more efficient
19 design. We don't need that easement, if we don't
20 ultimately get it, but it would be better for the Project
21 as a whole. But that, really, for National Grid, is the
22 sum of new acquisition. But that means that always
23 leaving open the possibility, like Jim was saying, for
24 future access or other concerns. You know, it's not going

1 to be a closed book on it. But, for the most part, it's
2 very relatively minor.

3 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Any other
4 questions? Comments? Sir.

5 MR. SPELTZ: Mike Speltz. That's
6 S-p-e-l-t-z. I'm a Londonderry resident. I think Jim
7 said that roughly 9 percent of the cost burden would fall
8 on New Hampshire ratepayers. Does that imply that roughly
9 91 percent of the power that, on average, the new line
10 will be carrying will benefit Massachusetts residents?

11 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay. In this case, the
12 investments are -- it's not like your normal electric
13 bill, where it's, you know, it's per kilowatt. The way
14 transmission projects are handled is, there's a cost,
15 there's a cost for the project. What ISO-New England
16 looks at is, how much load -- they look at the New England
17 total load, and they look at then "how much state does
18 each state use out of that?" In other words, new
19 Hampshire is about 9 percent of the total New England
20 load. I think Connecticut is 45 percent. So, they take
21 the cost of these projects, and they "okay, because it's a
22 regional benefit, we apply how much people pay for it by
23 the load for the whole state." So, it's not so much that,
24 you know, an individual thing, it's a collective. You

1 know, New Hampshire uses 9 percent of New England's power,
2 so, they're going to get 9 percent of the bill for the
3 Project.

4 MR. SPELTZ: It's a "big banks" analogy.

5 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else want
6 to comment or ask a question?

7 MR. CLEARY: My name is Thomas Cleary,
8 C-l-e-a-r-y. I'm from Windham. And, I'm interested in
9 how you look at the costs and how they're paid for.
10 Aren't the shareholders of your companies paying for any
11 of this, too? Why is it all, you know, on the back of the
12 ratepayer?

13 MR. JIOTTIS: Okay. That kind of speaks
14 to how utilities are set up. And, we're set up to supply
15 you people with electricity. You know, that's how we do
16 it. And, part of that is just by making investments in
17 the system and then earning a return on that investment.
18 In this case, the way the tariffs are set up, people
19 invest, transmission owners like us, invest in it, we
20 build something, and then we get a return on that money.
21 It's just like making an investment into infrastructure in
22 a factory, the users of that factory are going to pay for
23 it.

24 MR. CLEARY: This adds transmission

1 capacity to the entire New England grid?

2 MR. JIOTTIS: Yes. It's an important to
3 the grid, yes.

4 MR. CLEARY: And, if that's an increased
5 capacity, why aren't future potential customers paying for
6 that increased cost? Why is it on the current ratepayers?
7 That doesn't make any common sense.

8 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess --

9 MR. CLEARY: You're looking for future
10 business, yet we're paying for it.

11 MR. JIOTTIS: I guess you could look at
12 it, even with future customers, if somebody signs on
13 tomorrow, you know, on their electric bill is going to be
14 the Transmission Charge. So -- and our projects are paid
15 for over a number of years. It's not just one year and
16 done. So, someone comes in, they will be paying for it.
17 Just like we're paying for work that was probably done 20
18 or 30 years ago. It's just amortized over time. So,
19 everybody does pay for it.

20 MR. CLEARY: Yes. I guess that's the
21 key word, "amortization". Thank you.

22 THE MODERATOR: Thank you. Any other
23 questions? Comments?

24 (No verbal response.)

1 THE MODERATOR: Everything's crystal
2 clear at this point, that's great. Okay?

3 (No verbal response)

4 THE MODERATOR: All right. Going once?

5 (No verbal response)

6 THE MODERATOR: Going twice?

7 (No verbal response)

8 THE MODERATOR: Anybody else, really?

9 (No verbal response)

10 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Then, I want to
11 note for the record that nobody else has any question or
12 comment about the Project.

13 And, I want to thank you all very much
14 again for coming out tonight and being here. And, drive
15 safely on your way home. Thank you very much.

16 **(Whereupon the Public Information**

17 **Session was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.)**

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Steven E. Patnaude**, a Licensed Court Reporter within the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of the **Eversource Energy/ National Grid Public Information Session**, taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this meeting was held, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.


Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52

**Hudson, NH (Hillsborough County),
May 7, 2015**



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

 ORIGINAL

May 7, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Hudson, New Hampshire

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-05 PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY, and NEW ENGLAND POWER
COMPANY, d/b/a NATIONAL GRID: Public
Information Session held pursuant to
RSA 162-H:10 regarding the Joint
Application for a Certificate of Site and
Facility for the Construction of a New
345kV Transmission Line in Southern New
Hampshire

*(Presentation by Eversource Energy and a
Question-and-Answer Session and comments
received from the public on the record.)*

PRESENT: Hon. Kathleen McGuire (Retired)
(Presiding as the Moderator)

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, N.H. LCR No. 44

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NOTED AS PRESENT:

Counsel for the Applicant:

Adam M. Dumville, Esquire
McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton

**ALSO NOTED AS PRESENT FOR THE EVERSOURCE
ENERGY/NATIONAL GRID PROJECT TEAM WHO PROVIDED
THE PRESENTATION AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:**

Bryan Hudock - Project Manager, National Grid

Jim Jiottis - Manager of Transmission Engineering,
Eversource Energy

ALSO ANSWERING QUESTIONS:

Christopher Soderman - Engineer, Eversource Energy

Suzanne Findlen - Project Manager, Eversource Energy

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 THE MODERATOR: My name is
3 Kathleen McGuire. I'm a retired New Hampshire
4 Superior Court judge. I was on the Bench over
5 25 years before I recently fully retired.

6 My function tonight is to
7 moderate this public information session about
8 the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project. This
9 is a 24.5-mile, 345-kilovolt, electric overhead
10 transmission line that would extend from
11 Londonderry to Tewksbury, Mass., using -- and
12 it will use an existing power line corridor;
13 18 miles of the line would be in New Hampshire
14 and 6-1/2 in Massachusetts. The project is
15 being proposed by Public Service Company of New
16 Hampshire, doing business as Eversource Energy,
17 and National Grid.

18 I want to thank you all very
19 much for coming out tonight to participate in
20 this event. I know it's a really lovely
21 evening, and you may have wanted to do
22 something else.

23 Tonight's public information
24 session is the first step in an administrative

1 process required by statute; that's R.S.A.
2 Chapter 162-H. Before the Merrimack Valley
3 Reliability Project, or any new energy project
4 can be built, the company proposing the project
5 must receive a Certificate of Site and Facility
6 from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation
7 Committee, known more usually as the "SEC."
8 The SEC is an entity formed by the Legislature
9 for the purpose of reviewing and authorizing
10 proposed energy sites and facilities. R.S.A.
11 Chapter 162-H was recently amended to require
12 that at least 30 days before submitting an
13 application to the Site Evaluation Committee,
14 the utility seeking approval must hold a public
15 information session in each county in which the
16 Project is to be built. The Merrimack County
17 [sic] Reliability Project is proposed for
18 Rockingham and Hillsborough counties.
19 Tonight's meeting is that pre-application
20 information session for Hillsborough County. A
21 similar session was held last night in
22 Londonderry for Rockingham County. The purpose
23 of these meetings is to provide information to
24 the public about the proposed project and offer

1 the public the opportunity to ask questions and
2 comment on the proposal. Hopefully, you were
3 able to speak to the many engineers and other
4 project experts who were here tonight, those
5 experts who are responsible for implementing
6 this project. They were here, as you know,
7 during the open house session that began at
8 5:30.

9 So, the procedure that we're
10 going to follow tonight is this: After I
11 complete my introduction, Eversource and
12 National Grid will present a short video that
13 gives an overview of the Project, followed by a
14 brief presentation by representatives of the
15 companies. After that, you may begin asking
16 questions of the members of the team, of the
17 Project team, or make comments about the
18 Project. The statute requires that your
19 comments about the Project be recorded, which
20 is why the stenographer, Susan Robidas, is here
21 taking down everything that is said tonight. A
22 transcript of tonight's proceeding will be made
23 and included in Eversource's and National
24 Grid's application to the Site Evaluation

1 Committee. Your written comments will also be
2 included with the application.

3 Because tonight's meeting is
4 being recorded, it is very important that it be
5 conducted in an orderly fashion. Only one
6 person may speak at a time, and please speak
7 slowly so that Ms. Robidas can take down
8 everything that is said. Please also be sure
9 to direct your comments to me and not to each
10 other.

11 Eversource and National Grid
12 anticipate filing the application for the
13 Merrimack Valley Reliability Project in late
14 June. The application, including all public
15 comments, will be available online at the SEC
16 web site, and hard copies will be delivered to
17 each town affected by the Project. As I've
18 said previously, this is the beginning of a
19 lengthy administrative project -- process. The
20 statute requires at least two more sets of
21 public information sessions. Once Eversource
22 and National Grid file their application, the
23 SEC has 60 days to determine whether to accept
24 it. Within 45 days after the application is

1 accepted, a second set of public information
2 sessions will be held. They will be much the
3 same as this one, except that the moderator
4 will either be the presiding officer of the
5 SEC, or his designee. The SEC may also hold
6 additional information sessions as it deems
7 reasonable to inform the public. The third set
8 of public information sessions occurs within 90
9 days after the Site Evaluation Committee
10 accepts the application. The SEC and other
11 state agencies will hold hearings about the
12 application and any other permits that the
13 project is seeking to acquire.

14 (Cell phone ringing.)

15 THE MODERATOR: That's my phone.
16 Okay. I got to shut that off. It's my son,
17 and I know what he's calling about. It's about
18 "Deflategate." [Laughter] This is really...
19 on very, very important things like that, we
20 always confer. And this is, like, the most
21 important thing that's happened to us. You
22 know, it's very important. I'm still making up
23 my mind. [Laughter] But anyway, back to this
24 less important thing. [Laughter]

1 So, the third set of public
2 information sessions occurs within 90 days
3 after the Site Evaluation Committee accepts the
4 application. The SEC and other state agencies
5 will hold hearings about the application and
6 any other permits that the Project is seeking
7 to acquire. In the past, these hearings
8 involve the Applicant presenting information
9 about the proposed project, the SEC and state
10 agencies asking the Applicant questions about
11 the Project, the public making comments, and
12 the SEC moderating a question-and-answer
13 session about the Project.

14 The last part of the
15 administrative process occurs when the SEC
16 holds a public adjudicative hearing, at which
17 it considers evidence and decides whether or
18 not to issue a certificate authorizing
19 Eversource and National Grid to proceed with
20 the proposed project. These hearings typically
21 occur eight months or more after an application
22 is accepted.

23 Again, thank you very much for
24 participating in this initial step of the SEC

1 siting process. The video presenting
2 information will now be shown, after which the
3 representatives will make their presentations,
4 and then you get to take the floor.

5 **(Whereupon a video presentation was**
6 **shown to the members of the public.)**

7 THE MODERATOR: Now we'll have
8 the project engineers come on up. We have
9 Bryan Hudock, from -- who's a project engineer
10 from National Grid, and Jim Jiottis, who's the
11 manager of transmission engineering for
12 Eversource Energy. And they're going to make a
13 brief presentation and then will answer
14 questions and take your comments.

15 MR. HUDOCK: All right. Great.
16 So, good evening, everybody. As Judge McGuire
17 indicated, my name is Bryan Hudock, and I am
18 the lead project manager for National Grid for
19 this joint Eversource and National Grid
20 Solution. And here with me this evening is Jim
21 Jiottis, who is the manager of transmission
22 engineering for Eversource. So I'm just going
23 to give a short presentation about the Project,
24 and then we can take some questions.

1 The one thing I wanted to bring
2 up before we begin is, I know that there's been
3 a lot of discussion here and in other
4 communities, and the one thing we wanted to
5 emphasize is that the Kinder Morgan Gas
6 Pipeline Project is a completely separate
7 project that's unrelated to what we're
8 discussing tonight. We're here to talk about
9 an electric transmission project. So that's
10 where we want to focus the discussion.

11 So, in terms of our goals for
12 this evening and our goals of our public
13 outreach that is very extensive and ongoing is
14 that we want to have open and regular public
15 communication. We want to have good dialogue
16 with the public and all stakeholders, to
17 understand their concerns and get their
18 participation in terms of implementing the
19 Project, because, ultimately, public
20 participation is going to be critical for the
21 success of this effort. So, this and other
22 forums are in place to be able to listen and
23 interact with you and be able to get your
24 feedback going forward.

1 So I'll just start with a basic
2 breakdown of electricity, discussing the
3 overall electric system. It's going to start
4 with various generators which will produce the
5 electricity, and from there it's converted into
6 a higher voltage transmission, voltage that
7 will allow large amounts of energy to be
8 transmitted over large distances on the
9 transmission system, similar to a highway if
10 you want to think of a road system. And from
11 there, at periodic locations, the transmission
12 system will be tapped by substations that will
13 tap that voltage, step it down to a lower
14 voltage that allows for more local
15 distribution. And that's what you see on the
16 streets, homes and residences, as far as how
17 you're actually getting your power. So, this
18 project and the Eversource/National Grid
19 Solution is an electric transmission project.
20 So it's here to support the backbone of the
21 transmission system. It's not related to
22 distribution.

23 So, why this project? Why do
24 customers need this? So, Southern New

1 Hampshire and the Greater Boston Area have been
2 experiencing very concentrated growth and
3 electric demands. So the electric grid is
4 overseen by an independent entity, known as
5 ISO-New England, an independent system
6 operator. And they periodically study the grid
7 to identify potential problems that may arise
8 in the future. And as they did their studies
9 looking out at potential possibilities, in
10 terms of growth and the way the system is now,
11 they identified a number of existing potential
12 overloads that would need correction. So, in
13 response to that study, National Grid and
14 Eversource developed a solution that includes
15 this project, the Merrimack Valley Reliability
16 Project, which is designed to meet these
17 solution needs identified by the ISO.

18 So, focusing specifically on the
19 Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, MVRP,
20 it's a new overhead 345-kilovolt transmission
21 line that goes from Scobie Pond in Londonderry,
22 New Hampshire, and travels south on the
23 existing right-of-way through New Hampshire,
24 into Massachusetts, and terminates at a

1 National Grid substation in Tewksbury,
2 Massachusetts. Overall, the project represents
3 a \$122 million investment: \$82 million in
4 Mass. and New Hampshire, and \$42 million in
5 Massachusetts. It's a little over 24-1/2
6 miles: 6-1/2 miles in Massachusetts and
7 18 miles in New Hampshire. We have a breakdown
8 there of the town line lengths and projected
9 investment in the bottom right corner of the
10 slide. We currently anticipate, in terms of
11 schedule, that we will be going to construction
12 in the fall of 2016, with completed in-service
13 by the end of 2017.

14 So, what are the benefits of
15 this project? Well, first and foremost, as
16 we -- or as I discussed a little bit earlier,
17 this project, along with others, is designed to
18 meet reliability of the electric grid. So this
19 is a regional project and a regional solution
20 that's ultimately going to benefit all of us
21 that are all part of members of the New England
22 customers for the transmission grid.

23 Specifically for the communities where this new
24 line is going, it represents a significant

1 amount of local investment. So, for New
2 Hampshire, that's over \$80 million that will be
3 going into the infrastructure in those towns.
4 We'll definitely see a substantial increase and
5 incremental tax revenues after these assets are
6 placed in service. And additionally, on the
7 economic front, this will have direct and
8 indirect economic impacts, in terms of
9 construction jobs, and also indirect impacts
10 for the work force, in terms of hotels,
11 restaurants, gas, things of that nature.

12 And finally, this is all -- all
13 these benefits are going to be realized with a
14 project that has very minimal community
15 environmental impacts. So, given its nature --
16 or given its location and existing right-of-way
17 with other transmission lines, we anticipate
18 that we'll be able to construct this in a way
19 that should be -- have minimal impact to the
20 communities.

21 So, just to discuss again the New
22 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee process,
23 which is part of why we're here tonight, we
24 conducted an initial public information session

1 last night, and we're having our second one
2 here tonight. Later in June, we'll be filing
3 with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation
4 Committee. After they review our application
5 and find it to be complete, 45 days after that
6 we'll have another set of public information
7 sessions similar to this one. Ninety days
8 after the application is complete, they'll then
9 hold joint hearings -- or public hearings, I
10 should say, and then a second set of hearings
11 much further on in the process, towards the end
12 of the SEC process.

13 So I think the big takeaway is, along with
14 this evening's public information session,
15 there's going to be several other opportunities
16 for you, the public, to get engaged with this
17 project and to make sure that you're heard
18 about this.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So, Bryan, can
20 I interrupt you? You said --

21 THE MODERATOR: Sir, because
22 this is being recorded, we have to only --
23 you'll have to come up to the mic. And you'll
24 have an opportunity once he's done with his

1 presentation, okay.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

3 MR. HUDOCK: Okay. So hold that
4 thought, all right.

5 So we also just wanted to make
6 clear to you that, along with this session
7 tonight, there's other opportunities to
8 communicate with us. We do have a project web
9 site which you can see on here, a telephone
10 number and e-mail as well. So I definitely
11 encourage you to reach out in whatever way you
12 feel is appropriate. Don't feel limited that
13 tonight's your only opportunity. At anytime
14 you can definitely let us know additional
15 thoughts you have about the Project.

16 So I think now we're all wrapped
17 up, and I think we're about ready for the
18 questions.

19 THE MODERATOR: All right. So
20 at this time -- you're done with this; right?

21 So at this time, if you would
22 like to ask a question or make a comment, would
23 you come on up to the microphone. Please state
24 your name and spell your last name.

1 MR. HENNESSEY: Good evening.

2 My name is Dave Hennessey, H-E-N-N-E-S-S-E-Y.

3 With all due respect to the
4 comments as presented, I'm going to ask that I
5 be permitted to disregard the first statement
6 about Kinder Morgan. I think the Kinder Morgan
7 Project is connected to your project. I'm in
8 favor of your project. I think we do need
9 electric power. I'm even reluctantly okay with
10 the use of the current right-of-way, which is
11 part of my land, which you got a hundred years
12 ago and I got no more money for it, despite the
13 fact that you quadrupled the power being
14 carried on the same site.

15 My problem is: When I look at
16 your map, and you're showing the fourth line
17 going to the western portion of that
18 right-of-way, that is exactly the spot that
19 Kinder Morgan is showing on its maps as to
20 where the pipeline is going. Now, verbally
21 I've spoken to Kinder Morgan, and they're
22 saying, no, no longer is it going to be
23 co-located within the easement; it's going to
24 be 5 feet off. But there's a 100-foot

1 construction zone for the Kinder Morgan
2 Project.

3 Now, a couple of quotes that you
4 made in your presentation was that the
5 easement -- the construction is temporary, and
6 the work that will be done will be fully
7 restored back to -- will be fully done and
8 completed, and the land will be fully restored
9 to its original condition. But based on your
10 timeline, the timeline that you set, in 2016
11 construction starts, 2017 construction ends.
12 Guess when Kinder's construction is scheduled
13 to start? It's in 2017 and 2018. So, after
14 you've fully restored whatever work you've done
15 and construction, Kinder begins in precisely
16 the same location, at least a 55-foot overlap
17 with your project. I'm asking the SEC to
18 postpone your project until you guys can talk
19 and present to the public a unified timeline
20 and a unified construction plan on the same
21 piece of land that both of you are talking
22 about utilizing. I don't think that's
23 unreasonable. And I think we deserve to have a
24 single project doing the work at the same time

1 to minimize economic and public impact. Thank
2 you.

3 [Audience applause]

4 MR. HUDOCK: I can generally
5 speak to it, I guess. Honestly, I didn't know
6 what the -- that was a great comment. But was
7 there a question that you wanted me to respond
8 to?

9 MR. HENNESSEY: Have you spoken
10 to Kinder? Kinder tells me that they're
11 talking to you. I'm hearing from you that
12 you're not talking to Kinder, the projects are
13 separate, and yet, we're talking about the same
14 parcel of land. Are you talking to Kinder?

15 MR. HUDOCK: So, Kinder Morgan
16 has reached out to us. We were notified back
17 in December, when they notified us of the route
18 change, that they would be going forward with
19 the route that would be along the same
20 right-of-way corridor. We have had some
21 initial discussions with them and will continue
22 to do so, just because when it comes to a
23 pipeline, first and foremost for National Grid,
24 it's a safety issue. We need to know more

1 about the details, because ultimately we want
2 to make sure that whatever is being proposed is
3 safe - safe for our customers and safe for
4 abutters. And so there have been some initial
5 discussions with Kinder Morgan, just in terms
6 of that coordination about developing other
7 plans and understanding more about it so that
8 we can ascertain the safety of what they're
9 proposing to do.

10 MR. HENNESSEY: One follow-up,
11 please?

12 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay. Sure.
13 Go ahead.

14 MR. HENNESSEY: If it's a safety
15 concern, my question is: Why haven't you
16 delayed your presentation until you get the
17 facts you say you need -- and if you need it, I
18 think we need it -- and then have the
19 presentation and get this timeline moved back
20 until those questions are answered by Kinder?

21 MR. HUDOCK: Well, I guess it's
22 a -- the best way to answer that is that, given
23 our ability to control what we can control as
24 National Grid and Eversource, the project we're

1 proposing, given the reliability issues, you
2 know, we are doing our best to move forward
3 with that project. Kinder Morgan is a separate
4 company with their own separate goals and their
5 own separate project. We're doing our best to
6 work with them, but there's only so much we can
7 control in terms of that level of coordination
8 and that level of timing. But as I said, you
9 know, we will be willing to work with Kinder
10 Morgan when it comes to safety, and continue to
11 do so. But overall, ISO-New England has made
12 it very clear about the pressing need for the
13 transmission projects that need to go forward,
14 and so for us to delay could cause issues from
15 their perspective.

16 MR. JOITTIS: I mean, I do
17 sympathize with you, I mean, looking at two
18 construction projects coming down the pike.
19 But I guess one of the ways to look at it is
20 just what Bryan mentioned. We have --

21 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

22 MR. JOITTIS: Sorry. One of the
23 issues we're facing today with the electric
24 system, it's not a ten --

1 THE MODERATOR: No, you're
2 not -- use the mic. She can't hear you.

3 MR. JOITTIS: Can you hear me
4 now? All right. Sorry about that.

5 With the electric system, it's a
6 here-and-now issue. The problems that we're
7 chasing, the problems we're trying to address
8 are here today; it's not 10 years down the
9 road. The Kinder Morgan Project, it has a
10 different goal, okay. Our project is to keep
11 the lights on and to ensure reliability.
12 Kinder Morgan's Project is to deliver natural
13 gas. I understand it. But right now, again,
14 as Bryan mentioned, what we can control is the
15 electric system, and that's what we're chasing.

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank
17 you. You were next, I think, sir.

18 MR. MENGHANI: My name is Sushil
19 Menghani.

20 THE MODERATOR: Spell your first
21 and last names, please.

22 MR. MENGHANI: Oh, yeah. I've
23 done this a number of times. S, as in Sarah U,
24 as in user, Sushil. And Menghani,

1 M-E-N-G-H-A-N-I. I got questions for you since
2 you said that. Do you have any data -- when
3 you guys raised the new tower on the western
4 end, how many houses came within 50 feet of the
5 tower? You have the data points?

6 MR. HUDOCK: In terms of houses
7 that are actually within 50 feet of a
8 transmission --

9 MR. MENGHANI: Of the new
10 tower --

11 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

12 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Just wait
13 a second. See, the court reporter -- I'm used
14 to working with court reporters. And they have
15 a very difficult job. They have to take down
16 everything that is said, okay. So you have to
17 speak slowly, and only one of you can speak at
18 a time.

19 Okay. So, you finish your
20 question. He answers it. And then, if you
21 want to follow up, that's fine. So, okay.

22 MR. MENGHANI: Litchfield to
23 Hudson, along this new line, the project
24 involves constructing a new tower onto the

1 western side; right? From that tower point and
2 the houses impacted, do you have list of houses
3 which are within the 45 feet, radius of 55 feet
4 from the western side of the tower? Do you
5 have list of the number or something? Has that
6 list been compiled?

7 MR. HUDOCK: So let me answer
8 that question in a couple parts. First of all,
9 you mentioned the relocation of a line to the
10 western edge of the right-of-way in Hudson.
11 So, just to be clear, National Grid is
12 relocating that line only in that small portion
13 of Hudson. If I remember correctly, it's about
14 a half-mile. So it's not for the whole length
15 of Hudson that there's going to be a new line
16 for the western end.

17 But specifically to your
18 question, as far as how many homes within 45 --

19 THE MODERATOR: If you can slow
20 down.

21 MR. HUDOCK: Okay. In terms of
22 how many homes are within 45 feet of the
23 proposed new towers, I don't think there are
24 right now.

1 MR. MENGHANI: Okay. So you're
2 absolutely sure that within that western
3 side -- so, okay, no houses. Are there any
4 houses within 100 feet? Is there any data set
5 that there are houses within 50 feet or 100
6 feet are impacted or kind of have major
7 influence, as you call it, "project impactors"?
8 You guys have that list?

9 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Sir,
10 you're going to slow down, too. Are you
11 asking if -- you're asking how many houses are
12 within the 100 feet?

13 MR. MENGHANI: Fifty feet.

14 THE MODERATOR: Fifty feet? All
15 right.

16 MR. HUDOCK: Okay. So I think,
17 similar to the 45-foot question, for the
18 50-foot question I think it's the same. I
19 don't believe there are any homes within 45
20 to --

21 MR. MENGHANI: So you're saying
22 from the western side of the tower are just
23 kind of -- no houses are there from 100 feet or
24 50 feet from the western side of the tower;

1 correct?

2 MR. HUDOCK: So we can tell you,
3 like, from 100 feet, you can keep expanding out
4 distances, and I don't know, offhand, in terms
5 of how many houses as you go farther and
6 farther out. But we'd be happy to have --

7 MR. MENGHANI: So you don't
8 have --

9 THE MODERATOR: Just a second,
10 sir. You have to let him finish his answer
11 and, then you can ask a question. Okay?

12 MR. HUDOCK: I guess maybe the
13 best way to answer is, with that, too, if you
14 have a specific location in mind, we'd be happy
15 to talk with you either before or after, as far
16 as the location you're talking about and the
17 distance to the closest proposed structure.

18 MR. MENGHANI: No, my question
19 was more directed in terms of audit and
20 assessment and the surveyors. You must have
21 definitely made a list. When you're building a
22 tower on the western side, the houses which are
23 close by, 100 houses or 50 houses or 200
24 houses, are going to be impacted. And the

1 reason I'm asking the question which follows up
2 the other question, if you can provide that
3 list of details, later I'm going to send an
4 e-mail, that would be nice. You don't have to
5 provide answers. It's okay. I can understand.

6 But you mentioned that, as the
7 -- and this is the second question: With the
8 new -- have these new lines going, the Town of
9 Hudson will definitely get some benefits,
10 right, in terms of tax? Do you have that
11 number?

12 MR. HUDOCK: Yes, we do. I
13 don't have it right off the tip of my tongue,
14 but we could definitely get it to you.

15 MR. MENGHANI: Okay. So what --

16 THE MODERATOR: Okay. You know
17 what? I want to make sure everybody gets a
18 chance to ask questions. So --

19 MR. MENGHANI: Are you --

20 THE MODERATOR: Just a second,
21 sir, okay. I want to ask you to please be as
22 concise as you can when you come up to ask a
23 question. Be as specific as you can. And I'm
24 going to have to start limiting the number of

1 either questions or time that you're up, to be
2 sure everybody has an opportunity. And then,
3 after I'm sure that everybody has the
4 opportunity to speak, if you want to return,
5 you can. So, one more question, sir, okay.

6 MR. MENGHANI: Okay. So I
7 know -- I saw comments over there that there's
8 a project. And you had underground projects
9 for 345kV from Woburn to Wakefield --

10 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

11 MR. MENGHANI: It was a
12 underground project. Was there any thought
13 process given when the lines are being laid and
14 they're going to pick community areas, can
15 something overhead go underground? If yes, why
16 and why not? So I'd like to know that.

17 MR. HUDOCK: So I can -- as far
18 as the possibility of putting this line
19 underground, yes, we did consider that and
20 evaluate that option, and for a number of
21 reasons we decided on the overhead option, both
22 in terms of cost, actual feasibility, in terms
23 of being able to put that large of a line
24 underground from a systems standpoint,

1 environmental impacts. All those things across
2 the board really indicated that the overhead
3 lines were a preferred solution.

4 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Who else?
5 Yes. Come up, please, sir.

6 Oh, you were next, weren't you?
7 I'll get you next time.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's standing.
9 Go ahead.

10 THE MODERATOR: Hello.

11 MR. McKIVERGAN: Hi, I'm John
12 McKivergan, M-C-K-I-V-E-R-G-A-N. Just not to
13 belabor the point, but to get back to the
14 Kinder Morgan Project, if you and them cannot
15 reach an agreement on timelines, where does
16 that go? Who makes the decision?

17 MR. JOITTIS: I'm not sure if
18 it's really a decision between the two
19 projects. Again, both projects are standing on
20 their own two feet. You know, we're solving a
21 problem on the electric system; Kinder Morgan's
22 trying to provide gas to the region. I'm not
23 sure it's an either/or type of thing or
24 settling on it. It's how their project gets

1 justified -- or I should say how their project
2 gets approved and our project gets approved.

3 MR. McKIVERGAN: Can I ask a
4 follow-up?

5 THE MODERATOR: Yes. Go ahead.

6 MR. McKIVERGAN: I do project
7 management. Timelines get stretched. You
8 can't guarantee me that because you said it's a
9 year, it's going to stay there. You can't
10 guarantee a timeline. The concern is you're
11 going to overlap. You're going to run into
12 each other. That's why I'm asking.

13 MR. JOITTIS: It is a concern.
14 Right now, our schedules look like we're going
15 to be -- they're coming after us. Again,
16 they're also still very early in their
17 permitting process. I'm sure they've put a
18 schedule out that says it's going to take
19 X-amount of time to permit. That's -- again,
20 we'll see how that shakes out.

21 So, you know, as I mentioned
22 before, our project is solving a problem that's
23 today. So I'm not sure we want to wait and
24 take a risk with our system to see if their

1 project gets approved and then try to combine
2 everything.

3 MR. McKIVERGAN: I guess I'm
4 just saying, reiterating the point of the
5 gentleman earlier, that the communication now
6 is really important.

7 MR. JOITTIS: Well, I guess one
8 thing, too -- I assume you're an abutter to the
9 project along here?

10 MR. McKIVERGAN: Sort of. We're
11 close.

12 MR. JOITTIS: One thing, as an
13 abutter, it's still -- we may have a
14 right-of-way on there for electric power lines,
15 but that doesn't give Kinder Morgan the right
16 to drop a pipeline in there. They've still got
17 to work with all the underlying landowners.
18 Our easements are strictly for overhead. They
19 allow us to build the transmission lines,
20 distribution lines --

21 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

22 MR. JOITTIS: They allow us to
23 build electric facilities. So when Kinder
24 Morgan's going to come to site this stuff,

1 they've still got to deal with all the
2 underlying landowners and obtain easements for
3 the gas pipelines. So that's, you know, that's
4 another process, that for us to wait for that
5 to happen, I'm not sure we're going leave
6 our -- the electric system jeopardized for that
7 long to see if it does and when it does happen.

8 THE MODERATOR: Jim, you get
9 very excited about the transmission lines.

10 MR. JOITTIS: I know.

11 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Yes, sir.

12 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Good evening.

13 I'm Paul McLaughlin. I'm an abutter at
14 22 Birch Lane, in Pelham.

15 THE MODERATOR: Mr. McLaughlin,
16 would you spell your last name, please.

17 MR. McLAUGHLIN: It is M-C,
18 capital L, A-U-G-H-L-I-N. As I often said to
19 my students, "MC, Laugh, Lin." [Laughter]

20 Okay. A few points: One, we've
21 heard of an \$82 million investment. We've
22 heard nothing of an impact on electric rates.
23 I assume this means that this will have no
24 effect on the electric rates; is that correct?

1 MR. HUDOCK: So the way that --
2 this is a great question. The way that
3 transmission projects like these are funded,
4 it's a regional effort. So, projects like
5 these are funded through a regional pool where
6 all the states in New England pay a portion
7 that's proportional to their state load. So,
8 currently, New Hampshire pays -- its residents
9 pay about 9 percent of the transmission
10 projects across New England. And it's a line
11 item on your bill that goes into transmission
12 projects, including these.

13 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Does that mean
14 there will be an increase, a decrease or no
15 effect on our electric rates?

16 MR. HUDOCK: So, in terms of
17 direct project impacts, there would be a
18 portion that would go into the fund that would
19 come out onto your bill. That being said, in
20 terms of, you know, the direct impact, the
21 alternative of doing nothing, while maybe you
22 wouldn't necessarily see the impact on your
23 bill, there's issues with reliability and other
24 things that, if not addressed, could have

1 various significant impacts otherwise.

2 THE MODERATOR: So, Bryan, are
3 you saying, since New Hampshire uses 9 percent
4 of the energy, they're responsible for
5 9 percent of the cost of this project?

6 MR. HUDOCK: That's right. The
7 9 percent is not specific to say 9 percent of
8 this project. It's a system-wide allocation.
9 And it also goes to whether the project is
10 here, Massachusetts or anywhere else. It's all
11 allocated on by a regional proportional rate.

12 MR. McLAUGHLIN: If I may
13 proceed with a couple more?

14 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

15 MR. McLAUGHLIN: As I abut the
16 site, okay, I'm not going to wind up with an
17 electric line alone or a gas line alone. I'm
18 going to wind up with both. And I need to see
19 both of them together so that I can make a
20 reasonable assessment on my communications with
21 my government. As of now, I hear from the
22 electric company -- thank you -- I hear from
23 the gas company -- thank you -- but I'm not
24 really sure exactly how those two things go

1 together. And before I could possibly say to
2 my selectmen, state and national
3 representatives, hey, I like this or I don't
4 like this, I need that information. So, again,
5 this is a request to see both on the same piece
6 of paper, having the same sort of information
7 on time.

8 Okay. I'm also curious: Pelham
9 is the next to the last -- next to the largest
10 length of transmission line in this project.
11 Why wasn't this held in one of the communities
12 which had a longer length of wire?

13 MR. HUDOCK: So, in terms of
14 Pelham, we did, outside of this meeting, also
15 have a separate meeting with the board of
16 selectmen and a separate open house
17 specifically for Pelham, to give Pelham
18 residents an opportunity to come out and have
19 this interaction, along with this one here
20 tonight.

21 In terms of your answer about
22 why wasn't this in Pelham, these meetings are
23 held by county, and there's two towns per
24 county. So it was either Hudson or Pelham for

1 this one, and it was either Londonderry or
2 Windham for the one last night. I'm not
3 totally sure about the logistics as far as
4 picking, you know, one or the other, honestly.

5 MR. McLAUGHLIN: And finally,
6 Your Honor, thank you for the way in which
7 you're running this meeting.

8 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

9 Okay, Mr. Gilcreast. You still
10 have to say your name.

11 MR. GILCREAST: My name is
12 Lynwood Gilcreast, G-I-L-C-R-E-A-S-T. I live
13 on Boyd Road in Hudson.

14 A quick question: Is there
15 anyone here from the Town of Hudson? Any
16 officials here? Selectmen? Anybody? No. So
17 that's a shame because they're missing the
18 opportunity to hear firsthand what we think and
19 how we feel. So, same thing happened in
20 Londonderry. And that's just a comment.

21 But I'm also convinced that
22 these power lines -- right now I'm looking at
23 trees. I'm going to be looking at towers and
24 lines. I'm convinced that this is going to

1 have an impact on the value of our home. I've
2 been told, "No, we've done studies, and it
3 doesn't and it hasn't." But if I drove up a
4 driveway and I was going to buy a house and I
5 looked and I saw nothing but towers and lines,
6 I'd turn around. It has to have an effect on
7 it. And I know it's not your issue, per se,
8 because you have the right-of-way. But I'm
9 disappointed in the Town folks for not even --
10 we never got a letter from the Town. I didn't.
11 And I don't think Londonderry did, either. And
12 I was at Londonderry last night, and there were
13 no officials there, either. So that's a
14 comment that I was going to bring up.

15 Also, can someone tell me what
16 the minimum safe distance from a 345-kilovolt
17 line, for a dwelling is? I mean, how far away
18 from those lines -- there must be a number.
19 Does anyone know what that number is?

20 MR. JOITTIS: Let me bring in
21 one of our engineers who deals with it every
22 day to give you an accurate number. And this
23 is Chris Soderman.

24 MR. SODERMAN: S-O-D-E-R-M-A-N.

1 And the criteria for a 345kV line is to
2 maintain, while the wind is blowing the wire
3 towards the edge of the right-of-way, at least
4 13 feet -- or excuse me -- 16 feet to the edge
5 of that right-of-way.

6 MR. GILCREAST: Sixteen feet.
7 But how about from the actual closest line,
8 this 345 --

9 MR. SODERMAN: Well, the --
10 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

11 MR. GILCREAST: I'm talking the
12 actual line. I'm not talking any right-of-way
13 where the woods would be. I'm talking the
14 actual voltage line.

15 MR. SODERMAN: Yeah. Well, the
16 outermost conductor -- the line is centered
17 85 feet from the edge. The outermost conductor
18 is 26 feet from that. So it would just be 85
19 minus 26, or 59 feet.

20 MR. GILCREAST: So, 59 feet
21 would be the answer that a dwelling would be.
22 I think some are going to be pretty close. So,
23 thank you.

24 THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr.

1 Gilcreast.

2 Okay. Who else would like to
3 comment or ask a question? Yes, sir.

4 MR. CHIN: Hi, my name is Thomas
5 Chin, C-H-I-N. In your decisions and in your
6 evaluations of making it either above ground or
7 below ground, was there any mitigation
8 assessment against a terrorist attack?

9 MR. JOITTIS: That's actually a
10 great question. And I guess it's unfortunate
11 we have to think about that kind of stuff. But
12 in terms of overhead versus underground, that
13 probably wouldn't have factored into it. What
14 we look at for scale is -- I'm trying to --
15 it's a term we use called, "devaluing a
16 target." So, in other words, if we have three
17 lines and somebody does something bad to the
18 lines and there's a problem, well, we put four
19 of them in; it just makes it difficult, then,
20 for someone to cause that same problem. So
21 it's a little bit different way of looking at
22 the terrorism issue.

23 And on top of that, with our
24 lines, even with an underground line, people

1 aren't there all the time; so we have that
2 exposure. So it's better to actually have more
3 things, a stronger system, so damaging any one
4 part of it isn't going to take the whole system
5 down.

6 MR. CHIN: Okay. And my second
7 question is a follow-up to Mr. McLaughlin's
8 question on the cost to ratepayers.
9 Nine percent, can you give us a ballpark figure
10 how much that costs to us?

11 MR. JOITTIS: I apologize.

12 MR. CHIN: Five cents a kilowatt
13 or ten cents a kilowatt?

14 MR. JOITTIS: It's nowhere near
15 that. If you look at your bill right now,
16 you'll see you've got an energy charge and
17 you've got a delivery charge. Somewhere
18 there's a little line in there that I think
19 right now is probably 2 to 3 cents -- no, it's
20 about 2 cents for all the transmission work in
21 New England. So what this project would do, it
22 would affect that 2 to 3 cents. I don't know
23 the exact number. I apologize. We can get
24 that back to you. We had the same question

1 last night. We just have to work up the
2 numbers. But it's not -- we're not talking a
3 doubling of that rate. It's going to be in the
4 decimal points of it, like two-point so-many
5 cents or three-point so-many cents.

6 MR. CHIN: Okay.

7 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank
8 you. Anybody else have a question or comment?
9 Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. BARTHELMES: Hi, my name is
11 Barbara Barthelmes, B-A-R-T-H-E-L-M-E-S. Jason
12 Drive in Londonderry. We're abutters.

13 We were at the meeting last
14 night. And to Mr. Gilcreast, no, I don't
15 believe that any Londonderry representatives
16 were there. And, no, we were not notified
17 either about -- from the Town officials as to
18 what was going on with all this project. We
19 learned because of Eversource and National Grid
20 coming door-to-door to provide the abutters
21 information. But those people who were not
22 abutters did not receive any notifications.

23 I would like to know the number
24 of homes in New Hampshire that are abutters.

1 Do you have that information? I'm not -- I
2 don't care about an exact distance. I know
3 we're 50 feet from the line, our neighbors are
4 26 feet. How many people are affected? How
5 many homes are affected in the state?

6 MR. JOITTIS: On just this
7 project or across the entire state, with all
8 the transmission lines?

9 MS. BARTHELMES: On this
10 project.

11 MR. JOITTIS: As I've mentioned
12 before, I'd like to get back to you with that
13 number. I have to go count it. I don't have
14 it on the tip of my tongue.

15 MS. BARTHELMES: Okay. Because
16 I think we asked that last night, and I know I
17 was just hoping you'd have that information
18 tonight.

19 We also talked last night a bit
20 about, you know, resale and property values and
21 things like that, and the impact on our taxes.
22 I think most of us do expect our property
23 values will go down. Maybe it would be a small
24 percentage. But also, what also concerns us is

1 the length of time that a house would be on the
2 market. There's usually -- a home will
3 ultimately sell at some point. But with all
4 your studies, in terms of looking at this, this
5 side of things, do you know what the average
6 length of time a home is on the market? Again,
7 every home is different. But is there an
8 average increase in the length of time, if
9 you're trying to sell your house, that your
10 house will be on the market, because you drive
11 up the street and, hello, there's power lines?
12 And again, if you're living in a nice
13 neighborhood, there's that expectation when
14 you're living in a neighborhood with homes that
15 are valued at several hundred thousand dollars
16 that you will have a nice view. I don't think
17 a lot of people will consider power lines a
18 nice view. So, again, in terms of resale,
19 length of time on the market.

20 And is homeowner's insurance
21 often affected by this because, again, we have
22 that close proximity?

23 MR. JOITTIS: I guess -- well,
24 let's start with the second question. We

1 haven't heard homeowner's insurance being
2 affected by proximity to power lines. I don't
3 know, again, someone's individual situation.
4 But it hasn't been relayed to us by anybody
5 who's an abutter on the project.

6 I don't have the information on
7 how long it would take.

8 Okay. Well, I'll turn it over
9 to Suzanne Findlen. Suzanne is the Eversource
10 project manager for this project.

11 MS. FINDLEN: And just quickly,
12 we do have a --

13 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

14 THE MODERATOR: Oh, would you
15 say your name and spell your last name.

16 MS. FINDLEN: Suzanne Findlen,
17 F-I-N-D-L-E-N.

18 So we do have an industry expert
19 that is actually studying that right now.
20 They're doing their analysis right now, and the
21 results of their analysis will be part of our
22 application. And the application, once it goes
23 in to the SEC at the end of June, a copy of
24 that will be given to each of the town

1 governments. So that will be part of the
2 application. So that data will be there for
3 you to review, and then we can share that with
4 you as well if you want to contact us directly.

5 MS. BARTHELMES: Is there -- I
6 know you and I have been speaking, and it's
7 been wonderful. You've answered a lot of
8 questions. Will there be a representative of
9 the companies assigned to the families to help
10 us through this, to figure out, you know,
11 what's the impact going to be on our
12 properties? Is that something that's under
13 consideration?

14 MS. FINDLEN: Well, we do have
15 community outreach representatives, both
16 National Grid and Eversource. And I was just
17 looking. They're here tonight, actually. We
18 could point them out. But they are responsible
19 for the different towns. And when a landowner
20 contacts us via the number that's been
21 provided, they are more likely than not the
22 people or person that would get back to the
23 homeowner. And any questions or concerns that
24 that landowner has, it's their responsibility

1 to chase it down. And supporting that person
2 is a host of experts out there for both
3 companies. So if they don't have the question
4 [sic], then it's their responsibility to find
5 the expert to get the question answered.

6 MS. BARTHELMES: Having some
7 sort of point person that you can go to who
8 could then, you know, arrange for that type of
9 follow-up to get that detailed information.

10 MS. FINDLEN: Yeah. If there's
11 anyone in the audience that needs that type of
12 contact information, they can either come up to
13 me or Bryan or Jim or other people here, anyone
14 that has, you know, the Eversource or National
15 Grid, and they'll be sure to get your name and
16 number, or take you and introduce you to that
17 community outreach person that's here tonight.

18 MS. BARTHELMES: Great. Thank
19 you.

20 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
21 Anybody else? Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. MILLER: Good evening. My
23 name is Lavinia Miller. Would you like my
24 first name and last? L-A-V-I-N-I-A, Miller,

1 M-I-L-L-E-R. I own some property on Griffin
2 Road in Hudson, and I've been approached by
3 Eversource or National Grid about my property,
4 whether they want to take some additional land.
5 And there's a Plan A and a Plan B. And my
6 question is: Do you know when the decision
7 will be made whether you're going with Plan A
8 or Plan B?

9 MR. HUDOCK: Well, so we don't
10 have any hard date that I would say on making a
11 decision. However, we're taking into account
12 the fact that we do have to make a filing no
13 later than, say, June. So, from our
14 perspective, the sooner we can come to a
15 resolution, the better.

16 MS. MILLER: Okay. So,
17 June-ish --

18 MR. HUDOCK: I would say --

19 MS. MILLER: -- or before June?

20 MR. HUDOCK: I would say as soon
21 as we can come to a resolution --

22 MS. MILLER: What's it going to
23 take to resolve it?

24 MR. HUDOCK: I believe our real

1 estate representatives have been discussing
2 with you. So maybe we can talk offline as far
3 as additional discussions if you would like.

4 MS. MILLER: Okay. And why was
5 it mentioned at a previous meeting -- I think
6 it was Pelham, I'm not sure -- that there was
7 no land needing to be taken for this project?

8 MR. HUDOCK: That's right. So,
9 in order to be able to build this project, no
10 new right-of-way's required. However --

11 MS. MILLER: But I've been
12 approached for a little bit of land.

13 MR. HUDOCK: Correct. So I said
14 "however." However, in the interest of
15 efficiency, and to make the best project we
16 can, we found a way to potentially be able to
17 have an approved design that would require us
18 acquiring from you a small amount of land. So
19 we don't have to have that land. We have
20 alternatives. Like you mentioned, we have more
21 than one plan. But if we can come to an
22 amenable agreement, then all the better.

23 MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you
24 very much.

1 THE MODERATOR: Thank you.
2 Anybody else? Okay. You would like to get up
3 again, sir?

4 Oh, is there somebody else?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I had
6 raised my hand at the same time.

7 THE MODERATOR: Oh, okay. So
8 you're both second-timers. Okay.

9 Are there any more first-timers?
10 You're really a fourth-timer,
11 actually.

12 MR. MENGHANI: Sushil Menghani.

13 THE MODERATOR: You have to
14 spell the names again.

15 MR. MENGHANI: S-U-S-H-I-L,
16 first name Sushil. Last name is
17 M-E-N-G-H-A-N-I. My question was about that
18 slide you had with Step 1, Step 2. I want to
19 ask a question around this slide. Is it easy
20 for you to put up that slide again?

21 MR. JOITTIS: Maybe if we heard
22 the question first we could see if we need to
23 go back --

24 MR. MENGHANI: Because you

1 say -- it was for the slide that said Step 1 is
2 the community input. What my question was,
3 when you take this community input, do you guys
4 actually do something about it, or it just goes
5 as a data point in the Project?

6 THE MODERATOR: I think that I
7 had said in the introduction that all of your
8 comments, both oral that are being taken down
9 and will be transcribed, and any written
10 comments that you want to leave here at the
11 kiosk, will be made part of the application to
12 the SEC.

13 MR. MENGHANI: Okay. When are
14 you going to apply to SEC for the approval?
15 Has it already been done?

16 THE MODERATOR: They're
17 anticipating by the end of June.

18 MR. MENGHANI: Okay. Thank you.
19 My other question was, which you
20 guys didn't answer, as other lady also
21 mentioned, when you put up those towers, it
22 creates an impact on the houses -- I don't have
23 the figures. It was the lady with the
24 question, and you said you're going to get --

1 the Town is going get benefit in terms of
2 certain money. The amount of houses you had
3 and you multiply the devaluation of the house
4 by 10 or 20 percent, does it really benefit the
5 cause? We are part of the collateral damage.
6 And I want to see if you have a list of the
7 collateral damage, because these house values
8 are impacted. I would like to see the list.
9 If you can now, later, whenever, share with the
10 community, that would be nice. Thank you.

11 MR. HUDOCK: So I think that's a
12 good question, in terms of house-by-house
13 property impacts. No, we don't have a list
14 that quantifies that. And as Suzanne and
15 others have mentioned, we are doing a study for
16 real estate values. And what we've generally
17 found, especially given that the line is in an
18 existing corridor, that an addition of one line
19 shouldn't have a major adverse effect on
20 property values.

21 THE MODERATOR: And, sir, go
22 head. Oh, you don't want to. Okay.

23 Mr. Gilcreast.

24 MR. GILCREAST: Lynwood

1 Gilcreast, G-I-L-C-R-E-A-S-T. And I know it's
2 my fourth time.

3 THE MODERATOR: Yes.

4 MR. GILCREAST: Just a quick
5 question: This Part A and B, I don't -- does
6 that only pertain to this lady here, this Part
7 A and Part B?

8 MR. HUDOCK: Yes.

9 MR. GILCREAST: Something I
10 don't believe anybody else has heard about.

11 But also, just for the record, I
12 wanted to make a comment about the possibility
13 of a single pole versus the double poles. And
14 I think you're kind of following suit. But
15 some of the engineers from Eversource and
16 National Grid did say, and I just wanted it on
17 the record and everyone else to hear it, but
18 there are possible times when they might
19 consider a single pole instead of a double
20 pole. That might -- that may cut back on the
21 amount of trees to be cut down. So that's a
22 comment. So, thank you.

23 THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank
24 you.

1 Would anyone else like to
2 comment or ask any questions about the project?

3 (No verbal response)

4 THE MODERATOR: You've exhausted
5 your questions and comments. Okay. Then I
6 want to just say for the record that everyone
7 who's wanted to speak has had that opportunity.
8 I want to, again, thank you so much for coming
9 out tonight and expressing your views and
10 asking your questions. We really do appreciate
11 it. And drive safely as you travel home.

12

13 **(Whereupon the Public Information**

14 **Session was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.)**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
3 Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
4 of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
5 certify that the foregoing is a true and
6 accurate transcript of my stenographic
7 notes of these proceedings taken at the
8 place and on the date hereinbefore set
9 forth, to the best of my skill and ability
10 under the conditions present at the time.

11 I further certify that I am neither
12 attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
13 employed by any of the parties to the
14 action; and further, that I am not a
15 relative or employee of any attorney or
16 counsel employed in this case, nor am I
17 financially interested in this action.

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